

JAMES R. ZEARING.

JUNE 1, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 855.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 855) granting an increase of pension to James R. Zearing, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$12 to \$30 per month the pension of James R. Zearing, of Chicago, Ill., surgeon Fifty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. This officer served from December 26, 1861, to July 7, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. The records fail to show any disability incurred in line of duty in the service.

August 31, 1891, he filed a claim for pension under the act of June 27, 1890, alleging disease of eyes and general debility. He appears never to have filed a claim under the general law.

In a statement to the board of examining surgeons at Chicago, Ill., November 26, 1891, he said:

I had an attack five years ago of glaucoma and was laid up in my room for four months, and since then have been incapacitated from practicing my profession.

From this it will be seen that the claimant does not claim that his disease of eyes or impairment of sight was due to his service. His claim under the act of June 27, 1890, was allowed at \$12 per month from date of filing for disease of eyes and general debility.

Claimant is now totally blind.

Petitions have been filed with this committee in favor of granting pension to this man signed by a great many volunteer and Regular Army officers and others. Among the petitioners appear the names of Gens. G. M. Dodge, O. O. Howard, John McArthur, L. D. Parsons, and John W. Noble, and also Frederick D. Grant.

It appears from statements filed with the committee that the soldier is now old and has no income and no means of support save his pension of \$12 per month.

Both the Senate and House have insisted that increases above \$30 per month should not be granted in this class of cases—blindness not resulting from service.

This bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass, when amended as follows:

In line 4, after the word "roll," insert "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws."

In line 6, after the word "Infantry," insert "and pay him a pension."

In line 6 strike out the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to James R. Zearing."

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